In the Claims:

Please withdraw claims 36-48 without prejudice.

1-29. Canceled

30. (Previously presented) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect in a brain of a patient, comprising administering growth hormone, an analog thereof, or a functionally equivalent ligand to the brain of the patient.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, where the neuroprotective effect is a prophylactic effect.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, where the neural rescue effect is the rescue of neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of a prior neuronal insult.

34. (Previously presented) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect in a brain of a patient, comprising causing an increase in the effective concentration of growth hormone or a functionally equivalent endogenous ligand in the brain of the patient.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 where the causing an increase in the effective concentration of growth hormone or ligand comprises direct administration of growth hormone or the ligand.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 where the causing an increase in the effective concentration of growth hormone or ligand comprises administering an agent which either simulates production of growth hormone or the ligand or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone or ligand activity.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 where the neuroprotective effect is a neuroprophylactic effect.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 where the neural rescue effect is the rescue of neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of a prior neuronal insult.

40. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect in a brain of a patient which comprises causing an increase in the activity of neural growth hormone receptors in the brain of the patient.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 where the causing an increase in the activity of neural growth hormone receptors in the brain of the patient comprises directly administering to the brain of said patient an agent which increases the activity of said neural growth hormone receptors.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 where the agent binds growth hormone receptors.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42 where the agent is selected from growth hormone, an analog thereof, prolactin, an analog of prolactin, placental lactogen and an analog of placental lactogen.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 where the agent effects an increase in the active concentration of an agent which binds neural growth hormone receptors.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 where the agent is selected from growth hormone releasing proteins (GRP), growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH), functionally equivalent secretagogues of these, and somatrotropin release inhibitory factor (SRIF).

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 where the neuroprotective effect is a neuroprophylactic effect.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47 where the neural rescue effect is the rescue of neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of a prior neuronal insult.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 comprising administering growth hormone, an analog thereof, a functionally equivalent ligand in combination with a secondary neuroprotective agent.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49 where the secondary neuroprotective agent is selected from IGF-1, GPE, activin, NGF, TGF-β, growth hormone binding proteins, IGF-binding proteins and bFGF.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49 where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect to rescue neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of neuronal insult.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is Huntington's disease or Alzheimer's disease, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is at least one of GPE, IGF01 , and activin.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is corticobasal degeneration of Steele-Richardson-Olszewski syndrome, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is IGF-1.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is Devic's diease or Pick's disease, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is at least one of GPE and IGF-1.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is diabetic neuropathy, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is at least one of IGF-1 and activin.

56. (Previously presented) A neuroprotective pharmaceutical composition comprising a suitable excipient; growth hormone, and analog thereof, or a functionally equivalent ligand; and a secondary

neuroprotective agent, provided that when only one secondary neuroprotective agent is present, it is not IGF-1.

57. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 56 where the secondary neuroprotective agent is selected from GPE, activin, NGF, TGF-β, growth hormone binding proteins, IGF-binding proteins, and bFGF.

58. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein said patient suffers from stroke.